

downtown Pittsburg, the restaurant is a hive of activity, with counter and booths packed and overflowing, waitresses racing through the crowd, and presiding over it all with an enormous smile on his face, Bill Muniz, who is never too busy to talk about his plans for his community is excited and upbeat words.

"I go to schools, I talk about the opportunities they have," Bill is quoted as saying. "I believe in dreams. I also believe people have to work for them." And he has worked hard, since arriving more than 30 years ago from Guadalajara where he was an internationally recognized cyclist. He worked as a delivery boy, in canneries, in a chocolate factory and elsewhere before becoming the owner of the New Mecca in the 1960s and building it into a legendary institution in downtown Pittsburg.

So it is fitting that this weekend, the public square near the New Mecca will be dedicated to Bill Muniz, whose efforts have brought thousands of people to downtown Pittsburg and helped revitalize an entire city. And it is also appropriate that the Chicano Latino Academies Reaching Out (CLARO) will be naming its new computer center in nearby Brentwood for Bill in honor of his dedication to children, education and the community.

This is far from the first time Bill has been recognized for his civic contributions. He has been Pittsburg's Man of the Year (1978), UCSSO Mexican American of the Year (1980), original member of the Contra Costa Hall of Fame (1988), Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year (1992), City of Concord Commendation (1995), California State Senate Commendation (1995), and many more awards and recognitions. In 1995, the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors declared November 3 "Bill Muniz Day" to recognize his longstanding service to our community.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members to join in saluting a man who has lived the American Dream because of his own hard work and community spirit, and who now is doing so much to make that dream a possibility to others who are prepared to follow his example. He is a truly special and gifted man whose public enthusiasm for his community is as great as his personal modesty. I am lucky to call Bill my friend, and that is a genuine honor I share with thousands who will join to honor him for his many contributions and services.

**A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE
SERVICE WOMEN OF GUAM ON
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
WOMAN'S ARMED SERVICES IN-
TEGRATION ACT OF 1948**

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute in the name of equality, in the name of justice and in the name of opportunity. Fifty years ago, President Harry S. Truman issued an executive order, desegregating the U.S. Armed Forces and signed into law the Women's Armed Services Integration Act. This monumental piece of legislation was the realization of, at the time, a one hundred year struggle for women's rights. It begun in 1848 with the "Declaration

of Sentiments" in Seneca Falls, New York where women for the first time congregated together to discuss women's rights. Their immediate cause was achieved in 1920, when women were granted suffrage—the right to vote and participate in the American political family. In the 1920's women were asserting their rightful place in the workforce and began to embrace their independence in unimaginable ways. Yet, women were still not accepted as full fledged participants among the social and cultural fabric of American life. They were still treated as second-class citizens, in the male-dominated workplace. Few women were permitted entry into high executive positions, law schools and medical schools.

The onset of the Second World War, flooded the work place with tens of thousands of women eager to help the war effort by laboring in the factories producing valuable war supplies and armaments. These patriotic women showed America their superb abilities in tackling jobs that were previously performed only by men. Through their efforts, these pioneering women laid the seeds of the modern women's movement by forcing America to conform the double-standard in basic civil and social rights. There were many women who sacrificed much for the war effort by participating in the WAACS, the WAVES and the USO. Some women even volunteered for the hazardous assignments of being a test-pilot (WASPs) for new fighter aircraft or agents for the Office of Strategic Service (OSS). Many were nurses, codebreakers, truck drivers, and clerks. Most served at home but there were many who were assigned to front line areas. They risked their lives in the same combat zones as their male counterparts and in some cases died while performing their essential duties.

After the war, these courageous women were told to return to the homes and kitchens of America. The ironic injustice of helping to defeat oppression overseas and yet be denied equity at home did not pass un-noticed. With the force of history held in the balance, President Truman's executive order and Senator Margaret Chase Smith's Women's Armed Services Integration Act were both signed into law. The act authorized regular and reserve status for women in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. All at once, women, at least in the military, had finally achieved a significant step towards equality.

Since 1948, many of the limitations that were included in the act have been amended to ensure even greater equity for women in the military. As a result, women today may attend the service academies, train and serve in gender-integrated units and in many cases women have risen to general and flag officer ranks. As a direct result of this historic act, women are now able to fully participate and serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. Today, about 200,000 women serve on active duty and make up about 14% of the force; and about 225,000 women serve in the reserve components and comprise 15.5% of their strength.

Mr. Speaker, the Women's Integration Act laid down the foundation for the future achievement of America's women in the Armed Services. Today we celebrate and honor the past and present achievements of Guam's daughters who have dedicated their lives in some capacity to the service of their country. Women such as the late Lieutenant Colonel Marilyn Won Pat (U.S. Army), Lieuten-

ant Colonel Evelyn Salas Leon Guerro (Guam Army National Guard) and Master Sergeant Victoria R. Laganse (U.S. Army) are just a few of the high quality individuals who have served with honor and distinction. These dedicated few represent all of the women of Guam in their greater struggle for equality of women's rights. It has been 150 years since the first American convention of women's rights in 1848. And although our society has made progress towards the goal of complete enfranchisement for women, we can no doubt look forward towards an even brighter future, in part due to the work and accolades achieved by our service women. As members of Guam's family we are all justly proud of Guam's women military "pioneers" and extend to them an official Dangkulo Si Yu'os Ma'ase in their honor.

**DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999**

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purpose.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my strong opposition to the Hefley amendment. I am pleased to see so many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle firmly committed to nondiscrimination in the workplace.

However, it is absolutely appalling that the House would even consider this outrageous amendment. President Clinton's executive order reaffirms every American's right to non-discrimination in the workplace. Yet the Hefley amendment would reverse this policy against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Non-discrimination is a fundamental American right, whether it be on the basis of sex, religion, or sexual orientation. Unfortunately, this amendment is yet another example of a concerted assault on human rights pushed by extremists who wish to divide Americans. It strikes a blow to the core of democracy and should be rejected by all Americans who value the principle of freedom in the workplace.

Mr. Chairman, we must stand up in defense of all Americans and reject this amendment.

THE NEED FOR POSTAL REFORM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express concern about the continual rise in postal rates by the U.S. Postal Service. The recent